UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1994/8
12 January 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Organizational session for 1994
25 January and 1-4 February 1994
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Note verbale dated 23 December 1993 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation, has the honour to request consideration of the present application for election of the Russian Federation to membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Russia attaches great importance to the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in coordinating States' efforts relating to international refugee protection. Participating in this noble work within the framework of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will enable Russia to make its own contribution to solving the global refugee crisis, in which the situation in the territory of the former Soviet Union figures prominently.

Russia's accession to the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and to the 1967 Protocol thereto, and the measures that the Government of the Russian Federation has taken to admit and provide facilities for the enormous mass of refugees on its territory, are testimony of the policy direction which our country is following to overcome difficulties in this field in a spirit of democracy and human rights and in observance of the requirements of international standards. On a practical level, these difficulties concern, inter alia, the lack of trained personnel, the process of determining the status

---

* E/1994/2.

of individuals seeking asylum, the provision of housing and material assistance to these individuals and the improvement of immigration controls at frontiers. Approval of the Federal migration programme will create the foundation necessary for progress towards fuller compliance by Russia with its international obligations.